

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UR, US

SUBJECT: ASTP: JOINT POST-FLIGHT CREW VISITS TO USSR AND
USA

REFS: A) MOSCOW 8917; B) MOSCOW 9934; C) MOSCOW 9318;
D) STATE 148310

1. DEPARTMENT AND NASA OFFICIALS MET JULY 23 TO DISCUSS
POST ASTP CREW VISITS TO USSR AND USA. NASA EXPLAINED THAT
VERESHCHETIN, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF INTERKOSMOS, PROPOSED ASTP
JOINT CREW TOURS FIRST IN USSR AND THEN IN USA TO JOHN
DONNELLY, NASA ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
DURING MAY ASTP WORKING GROUP MEETING IN MOSCOW. DEPART-
MENT OFFICERS NOTED THAT (REF C) KORNIYENKO APPROACHED
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AMBASSADOR ON SAME MATTER ON JULY 3 SUGGESTING CREW VISITS

OF 10-14 DAYS' DURATION ENCOMPASSING SEVERAL CITIES WITH SOVIET CREW JOINING US CREW FOR TOUR OF US FIRST IN MID-AUGUST TO BE FOLLOWED BY JOINT TOUR OF USSR.

2. NASA ASSUMES THAT INTERKOSMOS WILL BE SOVIET ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR DEALING WITH POST-ASTP CREW VISIT QUESTIONS BUT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY INQUIRING OF MFA AS TO IDENTITY OF SOVIET HOST ORGANIZATION. NASA WILL BE HOST FOR US TOUR.

3. MFA SHOULD BE TOLD THAT US SIDE BELIEVES BEST WAY TO AGREE ON DETAILS OF VISIT WOULD BE MEETING BETWEEN GROUP OF RESPONSIBLE NASA OFFICIALS (HEADED BY DONNELLY) AND REPRESENTATIVES OF SOVIET HOST ORGANIZATION. NASA HOPES THAT MEETING CAN BE HELD IN WASHINGTON (NOT IN MOSCOW BUT WOULD CONSIDER PARIS OR LONDON IF SOVIETS UNWILLING TO COME TO D.C.). MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE FROM AUGUST 4-6 OR EARLIER TO ALLOW US SUFFICIENT TIME FOR MAKING PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR SOVIET CREW'S ARRIVAL ON OR ABOUT AUGUST 22.

4. NASA PROPOSES FOLLOWING AGENDA FOR MEETING, WITH BRIEF WRITTEN REPORT TO BE PREPARED AT MEETING'S CONCLUSION RECORDING DECISIONS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. LENGTH OF TOURS
- B. LEVEL OF OFFICIAL INVOLVEMENT IN EACH COUNTRY
- C. SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF VISITING PARTIES
- D. ITINERARIES, INCLUDING KINDS OF EVENTS PLANNED
- E. STAFF REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF VISITING PARTY ON HOST COUNTRY ADVANCE TEAM
- F. MEDIA COVERAGE, INCLUDING SCHEDULING OF PRESS CONFERENCES
- G. PRESENTATION ITEMS
- H. MISSION VISUAL MATERIALS FOR USE IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES
- I. INTERPRETERS
- J. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

5. CURRENT US THINKING ON TIMING AND ITINERARY IS AS FOLLOWS:
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A. CREWS WOULD TOUR US FIRST FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS BEGINNING ABOUT AUGUST 22, SINCE IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SCHEDULE ARRIVAL EARLIER;

B. EACH TOUR WOULD HAVE A WIDE-RANGING ITINERARY AND WOULD INVOLVE MAXIMUM PUBLIC AND MEDIA EXPOSURE;

C. US SIDE WOULD WISH TO SEND ADVANCE PARTY TO USSR TO ASSIST IN PREPARATIONS FOR US VISIT AND SOVIET SIDE WOULD BE WELCOME TO DO SAME.

D. DEPARTMENT AND NASA ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS DESCRIBED REF A.

6. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST AS TO IDENTITY OF SOVIET HOST ORGANIZATION AND ACCEPTABILITY OF PROPOSAL FOR MEETING WITH NASA REPRESENTATIVES. KISSINGER

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